VERMONT Workforce Development Council

Executive Committee Meeting August 11, 2008

Meeting Notes

- 1) Industry Center Concept After the presentation by David White and discussion by the members it was agreed that the WDC fully supports the effort and the idea to seek a project leader to begin implementation. Resources for this would come from DOL and DOE who will solicit support from other agencies and business groups. The first step will be a detailed work plan, outreach to key industry groups and the establishment of the industry committee to establish skill standards and advise on implementation the process. Pat, David White and Chip will continue to serve as a steering committee for the project and will keep the Executive advised and involved as appropriate. There was agreement that the first pilot sector should be one that is not too complex, where the consensus for action among employers is strong, and where there is an established infrastructure upon which to build a system that can serve a template for other sectors. It was agreed that the first sector will be in the Culinary/Hospitality/Food Processing area, which will be more tightly defined as a first step and the second will be in the green building and energy efficiency sector.
- 2) Update on Next Gen. grants Pat reviewed the grants made to date. Decisions on Internship grants will be announced next week. There is only one statewide application for a secondary program, and several continuing projects from last year. One grant has been awarded for training. Adult Tech Ed, Career Awareness and Alternative Tech Ed are all pending.
- 3) Update on work readiness credential Allan Rodgers presented the cumulative results of the industry forums he has conducted that point to the priority employers place on entry level work skills that are too often lacking in many of their new hires. He then presented an outline for the delivery of the Work Keys assessment and a plan for delivering classes to address the skill gaps revealed in the assessments. There was discussion of the pricing structure which is fixed regardless of the classes required for particular individuals. Allan explained that this was intended to simplify the process and is designed as an average rate. Individuals will be provided with the necessary instruction to

improve their scores on the post-test, even if this takes some people longer than others. It was suggested that this might be set up as a Beta test with a few willing employers before going to full scale to allow them to employ individuals briefly to confirm their skills before formally employing them. Several members pointed to the idea of imbedding these work place skills in other programs funded through Next Generation.

- 4) Update on Leadership Committee Chip briefly reported on the work of the Leadership Committee and provided a copy of their latest draft. Members were encouraged to send comments to Chip or Pat. The report is due to the Legislature in mid-December. the reporting format for the agencies is yet to be developed.
- 5) Update on WDC member recruitment Chip provided a confidential list of prospective new business members. It was agreed to try to finalize the list this month. members approved of all of the candidates on the list by e-mail subsequent to the meeting. Chip will come up with a final list to review with Pat and John, and solicit letters of interest from prospective members to provide to the Governor's office.

Note: the discussion of career awareness with members of the Career Awareness taskforce will be scheduled for the October meeting.